Low cost housing for urban poor

1089. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after devising several housing schemes for rural masses, Government plans to go flat out in promoting low-cost housing for the urban poor and is also in the process of formulating an interest subsidy scheme for them;

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has also held discussion with the banks and Housing Financing Companies (HFCs) in Mumbai to sensitize them on the issue of low-cost dwelling units for economically weaker sections in the urban areas; and

(c) if so, by what time the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) A provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made in the Budget for the year 2007-08 of this Ministry for Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor.

(b) and (c) A National Conference on "Affordable Housing for All" was organized in Mumbai on 1st and 2nd June, 2007 by the Government in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to address the issues and problems relating to Housing Sector of the country. The inputs received in the Conference have been incorporated in the draft National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007.

Houses for lower income groups

1090. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a study conducted by a group comprising social scientists, statisticians and experts from the housing sector as well as Planning Commission, put the lower income group housing shortage at 2.89 million, 11.7 per cent of the total homes;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and how for Government has undertaken steps to bridge the gap between demand and in providing homes to lower income group people in the country;

(c) the shortfall in the middle income group housing sector;

(d) whether Government has formulated any policy to provide houses to lower income group people within a time frame; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Technical Group (11th Five Year Plan: 2007-2012) on estimation of urban housing shortage has estimated urban housing shortage as 2.89 million dwelling units for the Lower Income Group (LIG) out of total urban housing

shortage of 24.71 million dwelling units as on 2007. In percentage terms the housing shortage for LIG in urban areas is 11.70% of total urban housing shortage as on 2007.

Housing being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been taking several initiatives for addressing the issue of housing shortage from time to time. Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) structured for a seven year period (2005-06 to 2011-12), the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme seeks to provide housing and basic services to the urban poor in 63 selected Mission Cities and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) makes a similar provision for non-mission cities. Houses at affordable cost for Lower Income Groups (LIG) is an identified component under both these Schemes. Further, the Government with a view to provide interest rate subsidy for housing loan availed by urban poor categorized as Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG) has made a budget provision of Rs. 30 crore for the financial year 2007-08.

(c) The Technical Group has estimated the shortfall in urban area for the Middle Income Group (MIG) along with Higher Income Group (HIG) as 0.04 million dwelling units in the country as on 2007.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the changing socio-economic parameters of the urban areas and growing requirement of shelter and related infrastructure, it has been decided to have a new National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in place of the exiting National Housing Policy 1998. The draft National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007 *inter-alia* provides for strong partnership among private, public and cooperative sectors and facilitates to bridge the gap between demand and supply of housing and infrastructure.

Violation of Manual Scavengers Act

1091. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings are violating provisions of "Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993;

(b) if so, the action that are proposed by the Central Government;

(c) the number of States yet to adopt the above Act; and

(d) the reasons for her Ministry not giving priority to such an important matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The States/UTs have reported around 6 lacs dry latrines existing in some parts of the country. The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 prohibits to engage or employ a person for manually carrying human excreta. The Act, 1993 provides that the State Governments by notification specify that no person shall construct or maintain a dry latrine. The State Governments/UTs have been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the provision of the Act.

(c) and (d) So far, the Act of 1993 has been adopted by 20 States and all UTs.